Mount Wachusett Community College

Summer 2010

Volume 1 • Number 3

CareerFocus™

5 MYTHS
About Community Colleges
Find out the Real Deal

Financial Aid... Simplified

DON'T KNOW
What You Want to Major in?
Liberal Studies May Be the Perfect Option

The BEST & BRIGHTEST
Turn to Community Colleges
Community colleges present affordable path to elite colleges

Dual Enrollment:
High School Students Trim a Year Off Their Education

MWCC Career and Transfer Programs

Student Life
Have fun. Build your resume. Make new friends.

Welcome, Bienvenido, Bienvenue, Bemvindo, Salaam
MWCC Welcomes Speakers of Other Languages

Mount Wachusett Community College
www.mwcc.edu/summer

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- Contact the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, or in person

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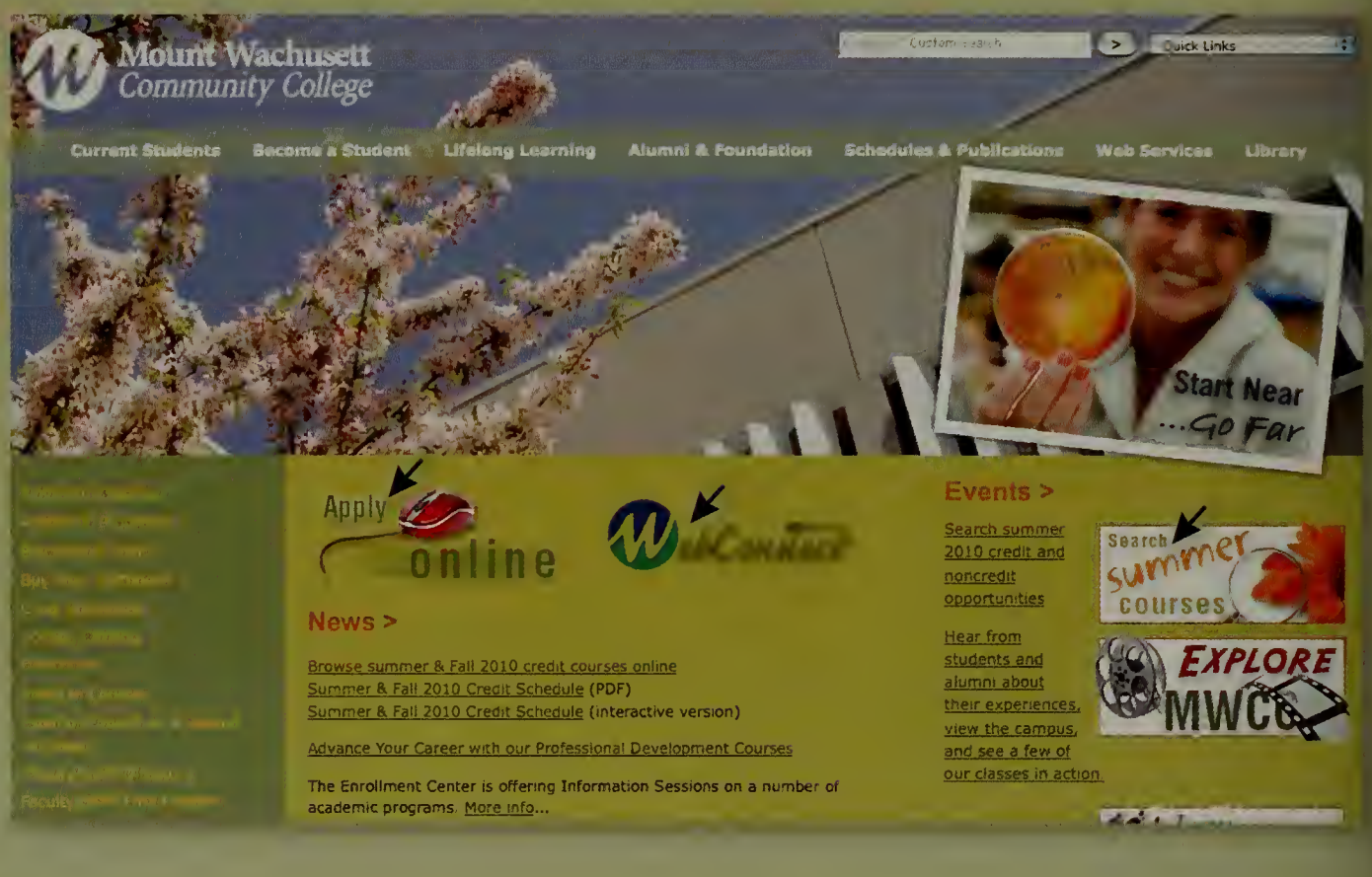
- **Apply online at www.mwcc.edu**, or
- Contact the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, or in person
  All new students are required to complete college placement testing, and must meet prerequisite requirements prior to course selection.

Course Schedules

- Courses fill fast and new sections open continuously. Find the most up-to-date listings online: **www.mwcc.edu/summer**
- To obtain a print version of the class schedule, call (978) 630-9284, email admissions@ mwcc.mass.edu, or pick one up in person

Class schedules are available at www.mwcc.edu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Search summer 2010 credit and noncredit opportunities
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Hear from students and alumni about their experiences, view the campus, and see a few of our classes in action.
EXPLORE MWCC

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Need quick training to start a career? Looking to take a class for fun?

MWCC offers noncredit classes that enhance your home, work, and personal life. Choose from classes offered days, evenings, or online. No grades or exams (except for licensure courses). Just learning and enjoyment!

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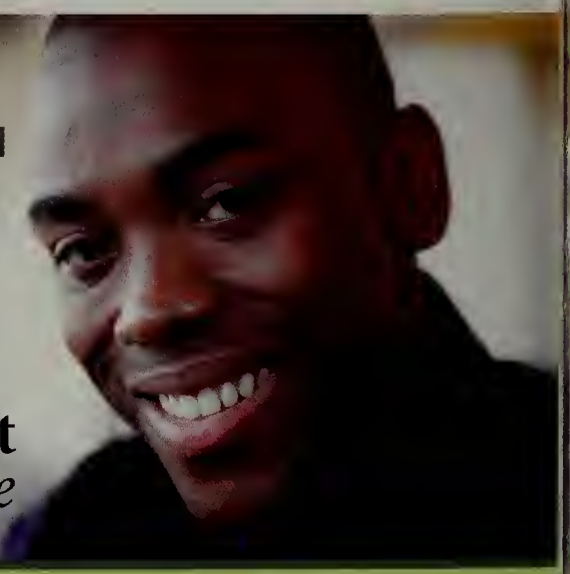
Check out MWCC's summer program for kids and teens at www.mwcc.edu/LLL/kids.html

Go to www.mwcc.edu/LLL or call (978) 630-9124 for the summer 2010 brochure!

Mount Wachusett Community College



MWCC Campus Locations and Hours

Gardner Campus
444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 632-6600
Email: admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

Leominster Campus
100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 840-3221
Email: leominster@mwcc.mass.edu

Devens Campus
One Jackson Place
27 Jackson Road, Devens, MA 01434
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 630-9569
Email: devens@mwcc.mass.edu

Questions about the MWCC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu. Comments and questions about the publication itself can be directed to the MWCC marketing department, (978) 630-9122.

Visit Mount Wachusett Community College on the web at www.mwcc.edu

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CareerFocus is published three times a year by Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 in partnership with Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

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Mount Wachusett Community College

CareerFocus™

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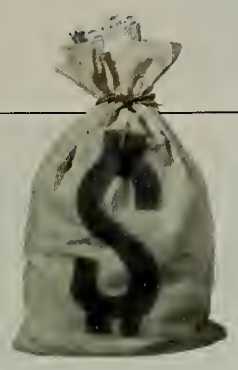


On the Cover:

MWCC student, and Educational Talent Search graduate Paige-Ashlee Bennett peers at an infrared thermography model designed by MWCC Director of Sustainability Paul Wolff to be used in MWCC's new Energy Management program.

5 Myths About Your Local Community College

Myth # 1

A degree from a community college isn't as good as a university degree.

Now wait a minute. Whoever started this one must have been absent the day they taught common sense. A degree from your community college in many cases is a step directly into the job market. It means a career with responsibilities and chances for promotion and personal growth. Or a degree from your community college means transferring to the university of your choice and graduating with a baccalaureate degree, which can open up a host of possibilities. Remember, attending a community college for two years gives you two years to save money, and that could give you the opportunity to go away to a university without going into debt for the next 10 years. Community colleges want you to go someplace else - after us! That's the community college difference.

Myth # 2

The people who go to a community college are the ones who can't get in anywhere else.

Wrong! All sorts of people go to community colleges. In fact, we are the first choice of area high school seniors. We offer honors programs; student life; convenient scheduling; healthcare, business, computers, liberal arts and humanities courses; and most everything else you can imagine. We have better records than a lot of four-year schools on the licensing exam for registered nurses. In fact, *U.S. News and World Report* reported that the community college graduates perform better academically than the native university students. See, it's just not hype!

Myth # 3

Community colleges faculty aren't the same as faculty in baccalaureate institutions.

No, they're not. Our faculty have master's and Ph.D. degrees related to what they love to do—teach. You'll be taught by faculty members who will care about you personally, and about how and what you learn. At community colleges, one-on-one doesn't mean basketball, it means personal attention. We don't have any lecture halls that seat 500 and we don't have any graduate assistants, so, yes, we educate you differently than large universities. We will offer you faculty who will meet with you before and after class just to make sure you are learning. Faculty who are current and up-to-date with what they are teaching. We don't think that you just get as good an education at a community college as you get elsewhere, we think you get a better one.

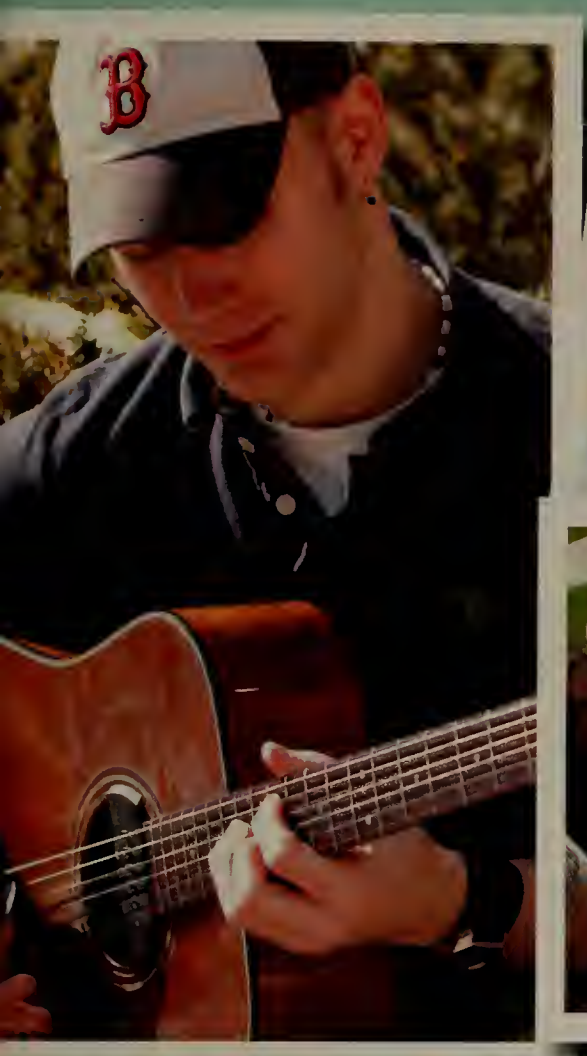
Remember The Truth...

Your community college ensures the difference between success or failure. They will do their best to help you do your very best, so upon graduation you are immediately employable or ready for the university of your choice.

Here are some reasons we think make sense, for going to your community college . . . and these aren't myths.

Save some money, and then go to the school of your choice for a bachelor's degree. Face up to the fact . . . it's very expensive to go away for all your education. Besides that, perhaps you can work on your grade point average. Community college faculty will work with you so you will succeed.

Thousands of community college students transfer yearly to the universities of their choice. Remember, a good GPA from your community college is a much better credential than any high school rank or ACT score. Ask any of our admissions staff and



Myth # 4

The courses don't transfer.

Bunk! Our transfer credits transfer. That's what they are designed for. In fact, we have articulation agreements with state colleges and universities that will take your associate degree credits from us with no strings attached. If you follow one of our many transfer credit programs ranging from business to theatre arts, you'll be able to transfer your courses to a Massachusetts public institution, and many private ones, too. Now, through MWCC's 3 Plus ONE program, you can complete your first three years toward a bachelor's degree at MWCC at MWCC prices. You then complete your final year with one of MWCC's 3 Plus ONE partners including Nichols College, Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Franklin University, or Regis College. Simply allow our professional counselors and academic advisors to help you select the best courses and programs.

Myth # 5

Community colleges are cheap, so they can't be any good. You get what you pay for.

We prefer to say we are affordable. Not cheap. Cheap is the toy you talked your mom and dad into buying at the circus. You know the one. The lighted laser wand of energy which broke before you reached the parking ramp. At community colleges, you don't always pay for what you get. Community colleges are supported with money from three main sources: your tuition and fees, the state of Massachusetts, and grants. If you paid the full cost of what this quality education is worth, you'd be paying a lot more each year. Would that make you feel better?

There you have it! All the best information available for you to make the right choice.

Forget all the myths!

they will tell you . . . the best indicator of college ability is a successful college record.

Have fun at your community college, too. We have great things to do in your spare time, like clubs and organizations, intramural sports, student activities, and all sorts of interesting conversations you can join in with your friends.

Get your hands on amazing technical support equipment, like computers and stuff, and get easier access to it than you will competing with a couple thousand other people.

Leave yourself some options. Half the college students in America change schools before they graduate, and transferring from one university to another can cost you credits and big bucks.

From your community college, you'll be ready to transfer almost anywhere.

Feature

The Best and Brightest Turn to Community Colleges

Recession-wary students and parents turn to community colleges as a path to elite colleges

By Janice O'Connor

As a member of the National Honor Society in high school, Meghan Nichols was accustomed to studying hard, yet the answer to one predominant question eluded her: What did she want to do in life?

The Athol resident knew she wanted to go to college after graduating from Ralph C. Mahar Regional High School in 2007, but had no idea what to major in.

"I wasn't 100 percent sure what I wanted to do, and I didn't want to waste my time at great cost while figuring it out," she explains.

"Definitely think about your options. It's nice to have the label name school, but it's really what you do with it. It's all about learning about yourself just as much as the classes you take, and if you know what you're capable of, you can do great anywhere."

-Meghan Nichols

Finding her place at MWCC

Nichols decided to enroll at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) to pursue a wide variety of interests while also earning an associate degree that could transfer toward a bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university. Taking this approach helped shape her educational path.

At MWCC, Nichols majored in Liberal Arts & Sciences and her high grades led to an invitation to join the college's Commonwealth Honors Program.

The Honors Program is designed for highly motivated students who are looking for a quality academic experience to prepare them to transfer to top public and private colleges and universities. In Honors courses, students are taught in a small class environment surrounded by other high-achieving students like themselves. And, of course, all these Honors courses go on a student's transcript, which gives big advantages when it's time to apply for scholarships or transfer.

Transfer opportunities

While at 'The Mount,' Nichols discovered a passion for biology after completing an Honors project on the evolution of the moose. After graduating from MWCC in December, 2009, she received a $5,000 University of Massachusetts Community College Scholarship, and transferred to UMass Amherst, where she is now studying biology. She also served as president of MWCC's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa international honor society.

According to Sheila Murphy, Honors Program coordinator, Honors Program students often benefit from enhanced transfer opportunities.

MWCC Honors students have transferred to Bentley College, Boston University, Clark University, Mount Holyoke College, Northeastern University, Regis College, Smith College, Wellesley College, the University of Massachusetts, and state colleges, to name a few. After graduating from MWCC, most students enter these colleges as juniors, many with partial or full scholarships.

What's in a label?

Nichols' advice for other students? "Definitely think about your options. It's nice to have the label name school, but it's really what you do with it. It's all about learning about yourself just as much as the classes you take, and if you know what you're capable of, you can do great anywhere." While she will be taking out student loans for her junior and senior years at UMass, Nichols expects her debt to be significantly less than many of her peers.

"Compared to students who came here right out of high school, I probably will end up taking out $15,000 to $20,000 in student loans altogether, where without any scholarships, they would probably be taking out $80,000," she says. "I saved myself a lot."

A path to elite colleges

Kaitlyn Bissonnette of Templeton transferred to MWCC from a private college this spring as a way to save money on her academic degrees. A 2009 graduate of Quabbin Regional High School and member of the National Honor Society, Bissonnette plans to earn an associate degree in General Studies at MWCC before transferring to a four-year college and then continuing on to medical school.

"She wants to be a physician assistant, but she was paying an astronomical amount, even with financial aid," says her mother, Dawn Gilliatt, who is also an MWCC student. "When she came to Mount Wachusett for her general education courses, she found she was using the same textbooks and covering the same material in her courses."

Other MWCC students, like Emily Lucas of Baldwinville, set out last fall for a private school only to discover the environment did not suit her. A 2009 graduate of Gardner High School, Lucas said she initially thought she would enjoy attending New York University, but realized she would prefer a smaller campus environment.

"I didn't like the class sizes," she says. "Some of my classes had 300 to 400 students, and I didn't get to know my teachers, which wasn't what I was used to coming from a small community." She enrolled at MWCC this spring to keep up with her credits while determining her next move. "I wanted to come back to a home base and regroup to determine what I want to do rather than rushing back somewhere else."

Honors Societies Provide Transfer, Academic, and Scholarship Opportunities to Top Students

MWCC Honors Program

The Honors Program offers students the opportunity to study and learn in a challenging learning environment. Students benefit from a learning community with small class sizes, teacher-student mentoring, team-taught interdisciplinary courses, and access to a fully-equipped Honors Center. Honors students receive a tuition waiver during their final semester, special recognition at graduation, and "Commonwealth Honors Program Scholar" designation on official transcripts. The Honors Program is perfect for students seeking transfer to a competitive baccalaureate institution or additional academic challenge.

Because the program is a Commonwealth Honors Program, all MWCC Honors courses are transferable as Honors courses within the Massachusetts public higher education system and graduates of the Honors Program are guaranteed acceptance into the Honors Programs at other Massachusetts public colleges and universities.

To be eligible, currently enrolled students must have a QPA of 3.3, recommendations from faculty members and an interview with the Honors coordinator. Incoming students with exemplary high school records that include combined SAT scores above 1650 and a high school QPA of 3.3 or higher, or a class rank in the top 15 percent, are also eligible for consideration.

For more information about the MWCC Honors Program, contact Honors Program Coordinator Sheila Murphy at (978) 630-9331.

Phi Theta Kappa

ΦΘK

Membership in MWCC's Phi Delta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) international honor society recognizes students' hard work and academic achievement.

Eligibility

Students must have a QPA of 3.5 and a minimum of 24 college level credits completed at MWCC.

Benefits

$36 million in transfer scholarships offered to members by almost 700 four-year colleges and universities and $130,000 in scholarships awarded annually by PTK.

Activities

Activities include: "Project Graduation: Feed a Body, Feed a Mind," a PTK civic engagement program that encourages students across the country to donate nonperishable food items and books to local relief agencies and literacy organizations. Other service activities include clothing and blanket drives for those in need and bake sales and other fundraisers to benefit a local veterans' organization and food pantries.

Alpha Beta Gamma

The Chi Gamma chapter of the Alpha Beta Gamma (ABG) business honor society recognizes academic excellence in MWCC's business programs.

Eligibility

Students must be enrolled in a business curriculum, have completed 15 academic credit hours, and have a QPA of 3.0 or above. At MWCC, business programs are Business Administration, Paralegal Studies, Computer Information Systems and Medical Assisting.

Benefits

Recognition of academic achievement; leadership opportunities and the ability to tap into more than $500,000 in scholarships at four-year colleges. MWCC's ABG members have transferred to the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst, Bentley College, Fitchburg State College, Worcester State College and Nichols College, to name a few.

Activities

Activities include: volunteering for NEADS, a Princeton-based service assistance dog organization; the House of Peace and Education in Gardner; local food pantries; military troops serving overseas; the national Alzheimer's Association; and relief organizations assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, and the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Be Part of the Picture

Student Life at MWCC: Have fun. Build your resume. Make new friends.

Many falsely believe that community colleges take the fast food approach to education: drive up, take your class, and go home, with nothing happening on campus between classes to make you want to stay. This could not be further from the truth. At Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), you'll find vibrant student life, with everything from student clubs and activities, to leadership opportunities, intramurals and more.

This is one of the major benefits of attending MWCC. You will have a whole range of in-class and extracurricular opportunities available to help you succeed, at a fraction of the cost of baccalaureate institutions. "The great thing about getting involved at MWCC is that you can gain leadership skills right away," says Greg Clement, assistant dean of student services. "Because MWCC is a community college, leadership opportunities are available to students as soon as they start their first semester of classes. At many other colleges, students may have to wait until their third or fourth year to fill key decision-making roles in campus clubs and organizations."

College is more than classes

A major concern for new students is how to meet people and make friends. No one can relate to thousands of people at once. Clubs are a great way to get to know others through small group interaction. Also, you can meet people who share similar interests (i.e. drama), abilities (i.e. tutoring math), or ideals (i.e. to advocate for the poor). The people you meet can reinforce and help you develop your interests and ideology, which often leads to personal satisfaction and a greater sense of purpose.

"I have met so many people by being involved at MWCC. This has given me a great support system of friends I can study with. It makes my time here more enjoyable," says Chrissy Lajoie, president of the Early Childhood Education Club. "Being involved has also given me great hands-on experience in my field outside of my coursework."

Extracurricular activities have become as important as schoolwork in producing well-rounded, successful students, says the National Center for Education Statistics. According to their findings, students who participate in outside activities have better attendance, make better grades and tend to continue their education further than those who aren't involved outside the classroom.

It's good to belong

What can you do to address your interests outside the classroom? At MWCC there are many options available:

- Student clubs and organizations
- Student representation on college committees
- Trips
- Leadership training
- Open mic
- Cultural events and celebrations
- Writing and publishing
- Musical performances
- Civic engagement
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Fitness center activities
- Conferences

Fall Leadership Retreat

This retreat is an annual MWCC tradition inviting students both new and returning to meet other student leaders and to learn to apply skills in areas such as team building, communication, problem solving, and diversity training.

Leadership for Life Program

This program includes a series of six short presentations on topics to help you feel more comfortable and be successful at MWCC.

The Lion's Den Student Center

The student center provides a relaxing, fun, casual atmosphere where students can gather and interact before and after classes. Special events and programs are offered in the center.

Student Clubs and Organizations

- ALANA (African, Latino, Asian, & Native American) Club
- Art Club
- Auto Club
- Campus Crusade for Christ Club
- CATS (Campus Activities Team for Students)
- Computer Graphic Design Club
- Dance Crew Club
- Dental Hygienist Club
- Early Childhood Education Club
- Green Society
- Human Service Club
- i Publications (literary magazine)
- International Club
- Intramurals
- Legal Studies Group
- MARC (Mature Adults Returning to College) Club
- Marketing Club
- Medical Assisting and Medical Office Club
- *Mount Observer* (college newspaper)
- PRIDE (People Rising in Defense of Everyone)
- Student Government Association
- Student Nurses Association
- Theatre Club
- Veterans Group

Honor Societies

- Alpha Beta Gamma Honor Society
- Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society

6th Annual Summer Leadership Camp

A day camp/institute for new students
August 12 & 13
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost: $10

- Get a jump start on your first semester
- Learn about all the amazing leadership opportunities at MWCC
- Meet other new students
- Get to know important college resources and staff
- Develop new leadership skills
- Learn how to manage time and get the most out of your college experience
- Get important tips on academic success
- Learn about civic engagement
- Have fun!

Email Greg Clement at gclement@mwcc.mass.edu for more information.

A Liberal Arts & Sciences Degree: An Affordable Option for the First Half of a Bachelor's Degree

Less Money. Smaller Class Sizes. Fully-transferable Courses. Why Start Anywhere Else?

By Nichole Carter

It's an age-old question: What do I want to be when I grow up? High school graduates and adult learners alike may find themselves asking this question—they may realize the value of a college degree, but don't necessarily know what they should study. A major concern for many is spending a lot of money and time taking courses when they don't have a clear career goal in mind. "For those whose ultimate goal is to earn a bachelor's degree, MWCC's Liberal Arts & Sciences program addresses these concerns," says Melissa Fama, vice president of academic affairs. "The curriculum of this program is flexible and fulfills the general education requirements of the first two years toward a bachelor's degree." Students take a wide variety of courses in different disciplines, earn associate degrees in Liberal Arts & Sciences from MWCC, and then transfer, as college juniors, to baccalaureate institutions.

If students spend two years at MWCC and transfer to a four-year university for the rest of their education, they can expect to save anywhere from $13,864 to $70,320—or $30,008 to $94,000 if you include housing.

Less money. Smaller classes.

"It makes sense to start these courses at a community college where students will spend a lot less money on their degree," says Michelle Valois, chair of the Liberal Arts & Sciences program and professor of English. "Typically, community colleges have smaller classes than large universities, so students can take those general education courses in a more intimate setting. Usually, it's not until the junior year that students take specific career-focused courses and the class sizes are pared down." At a large university, general education courses can have 300 students or more in them. At a community college, most courses are going to be a tenth of that size or smaller. Students get these smaller classes at a fraction of the cost, too.

A Liberal Arts education

Liberal Arts & Sciences is one of the highest enrolled programs at MWCC, with about 650 students a semester. Therefore, offering a strong liberal arts approach to education is an important goal for the college. Outside the classroom, co-curricular activities bring together different disciplines, explains Valois. For instance, last fall, MWCC offered a "Code Green" initiative centered around environmental topics. Activities included speaker panels, films, and student presentations. The semester before, MWCC offered a documentary film series on interdisciplinary subjects including racial profiling, censorship, and more. In addition to these activities, MWCC offers a full array of student clubs, activities, and events that further enhance a student's learning experience. (See page 6 for more.)

Starting in 2011, a new development of the Liberal Arts & Sciences program is a capstone course in Critical Thinking. "This course is transferable and it spans many different subject areas. A main component of the course is a research project that students conduct in an area of study that interests them," says Valois. "The capstone course and resulting project truly represents what a liberal arts education is about: the capacity to think logically and analytically, in whatever discipline."

Liberal Arts & Sciences Transfer Programs

Liberal Arts Degree

Liberal Studies Degree

- Communications Concentration
- Elementary Education Concentration
- Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Concentration
- History & Political Science Concentration
- Pre-Engineering Track
- Theatre Arts Concentration

Easy Transfer

"Students frequently graduate with Liberal Arts & Sciences degrees and then transfer to colleges such as Smith College, Boston College, UMass, and Massachusetts state colleges," says Valois. "Many even receive scholarships to attend." Liberal Arts & Sciences programs meet the requirements of MassTransfer, which ensures course transferability within the Massachusetts higher education system. MassTransfer students also realize tuition benefits at the baccalaureate institution. Additionally, students can now take advantage of MWCC's 3 Plus ONE program—through a partnership with Saint Josesph's College of Maine, Liberal Arts & Sciences students can take their first three years of courses toward a bachelor's degree at MWCC, at MWCC prices. They then complete their final year with St. Joseph's College of Maine online.

Color Your Career Green

MWCC Introduces Associate Degree in Energy Management

By Janice O'Connor

In the near future, it's possible that we'll reminisce about the old days of a petroleum-based economy. A shift away from coal and oil would not only alter the way we power our homes, the vehicles we drive, and the food and products we consume, but it would likely transform many of our careers, as well.

Environmental conservation is not just limited to a few professions. Scientists, engineers, business people, farmers, builders, architects, writers and educators are among the many professionals that are playing a vital role in creating a greener, more sustainable future for the Earth.

Growing Careers

With job opportunities in green careers expected to grow over the next decade, Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) has created a new academic program in Energy Management. The associate degree program, the first of its type in New England, prepares students for a variety of existing and emerging career paths and provides a transferable academic foundation for students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree in engineering, energy management, building technology or sustainability-related programs.

"For the past decade, Mount Wachusett Community College has been recognized for its institutional successes in renewable energy and conservation. These energy initiatives will now serve as a learning laboratory to enhance the academic experience for emerging professionals in a new clean energy economy," says MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino.

As an original signatory of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, MWCC has made a public pledge to reduce its carbon footprint and minimize its future impact on global warming. As a result, the college has aggressively pursued the use of renewable energy sources on the Gardner Campus including biomass heating, biomass gasification, photovoltaics, solar thermal, geothermal and soon, wind power. Specifically, MWCC's climate action plan strives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by the end of 2010, 60 percent by the year 2012 and projects carbon neutrality by the year 2020.

Paul Wolff, MWCC director of sustainability, among photovoltaic panels on the roof of MWCC's Gardner Campus.

Renewable Energy Sources class tours MWCC's biomass plant

According to the PEW Charitable Trusts' 2009 Clean Energy Economy report, Massachusetts is considered to be one of just 12 states that have large and growing clean energy economies. In addition, research conducted by the New England Clean Energy Council (NECEC) in 2009 determined that Massachusetts is expected to experience high job growth for renewable energy and above average growth for energy efficiency categories. The NECEC data projects growth of between 53,000 to 80,000 jobs in the clean energy sector throughout New England by 2020.

The new Energy Management program is for students interested in careers in the energy efficiency and clean energy field, such as energy management specialists, resource conservation project assistants, compliance analysts, energy auditors, building performance retrofit specialists, sustainability coordinators or building controls technicians. Prospective students include new graduates of the region's technical schools and those working in construction trades such as carpenters, plumbers, electricians, HVAC system installers, CAD operators or others who are interested in upgrading their existing skills.

Fruitful partnerships

As part of a unique implementation strategy for the program, MWCC is partnering with the Leominster Center for Technical Education (CTE), which will provide shared use of electrical, graphics and HVAC laboratory space and equipment for selected courses. Articulation agreements are also being developed that will allow Leominster CTE students to select a "dual enrollment" option that allows them to earn credit toward completion of the certificate and/or associate degree program while still in high school. MWCC also plans to pursue articulation agreements with other educational partners, including regional comprehensive and technical high schools and public and private colleges and universities.

The program will provide service learning and internship opportunities, for example collaborating with the city of Gardner to perform energy audits on municipal buildings and assisting with MWCC's efforts to pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the Gardner Campus.

"As the country continues to shift its focus on renewable energy and conservation as a way to become less dependent on fossil fuels, the demand for trained professionals in this field will continue to grow," says Paul Wolff, MWCC's director of sustainability and energy management, who developed the program's curriculum and will serve as professor for several required courses.

"As the cost of energy rises and as natural resources are depleted, people around the globe are becoming more concerned about how to be more efficient and how to manage energy."

The Curriculum

The associate degree program consists of 13 core classes that represent 44 credits, and an additional 20 credits of general

MWCC students Juan Gomez and Paige-Ashlee Bennett peer at a building insulation materials box demo which compares the physical and material properties of building insulation materials. Within the removable base are concealed electric fans that move air through insulation and illustrate air flow characteristics. This model was designed and built by MWCC Director of Sustainability Paul Wolff.

education requirements for a total of 64 credits. Core courses include circuit analysis; renewable energy sources; introduction to energy management principals; energy efficiency and conservation methods; engineering and architectural graphics; electric lighting and motors; sustainability in the built environment; energy analysis and auditing; energy control strategies; energy project costs and funding solutions; heating and cooling systems; and sustainable building operation and maintenance. In an effort to further expand the demographic reach of the program, MWCC plans to develop online versions of the new courses with accompanying hands-on components.

Strong leadership

The college has established an advisory board for the program with representatives from more than a dozen organizations, including utility providers, regional schools, manufacturers, fuel cell, smart grid and other clean energy entrepreneurs, housing and workforce development groups and state agencies. This collaboration will allow MWCC to closely calibrate educational content in the program with industry trends and market demands required in the new clean energy economy.

"Mount Wachusett Community College has historically taken a lead from a facility perspective as a great energy manager, so it's only natural that the college is once again taking a leadership role in creating an energy management degree program," says Marybeth Campbell, workforce development director for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and a member of MWCC's Energy Management advisory board.

"The college has done a great job in identifying a need and is right on course and aligned with the state in making sure we train a skilled workforce that knows how important energy efficiency and clean energy is for our buildings."

New Massachusetts Laws for a Clean Energy Future

In 2008, Governor Deval Patrick signed several important bills to further position Massachusetts as a leader in clean energy and environmental stewardship and grow the green energy economy. Among them...

The Massachusetts Green Jobs Act provides grant money to stimulate clean energy companies, to create green jobs and to provide job training programs. The Green Jobs Act also created the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to serve as the state's lead agency on the green economy. The center will work to stimulate job creation in the clean energy sector, promote workforce training and conduct market research to identify barriers to the clean energy industry and job training needs. In addition, the Green Jobs Act established the Alternative and Clean Energy Investment Trust Fund to stimulate the growth of the state's green economy.

The Global Warming Act requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050, with a reduction of up to 25 percent by 2020. Gradual reduction of emissions levels will spur innovation and entrepreneurship in clean energy technologies across the economy. The law establishes a statewide and regional registry of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Green Communities Act remakes the electricity marketplace in Massachusetts to favor efficiency over additional power generation, saving energy and money for consumers, and to support the development and use of renewable energy by residents, businesses and municipalities.

In addition, in 2007 Governor Patrick issued Executive Order 484, "Leading By Example – Clean Energy and Efficient Buildings," which sets higher energy efficiency standards in the operation of state buildings and sets short-term and long-term goals to advance clean energy and efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

Source: Office of the Governor

The Future is Bright Green for MWCC Alumna

Amanda Dettloff

Raised in a home that adheres to a sustainable lifestyle including organic gardening, composting and recycling, Amanda Dettloff naturally gravitated toward environmental studies for her college major.

After graduating from Wachusett Regional High School in 2007, Dettloff enrolled in the Natural Resources program at MWCC and graduated with her associate degree in May 2009. While at MWCC, the Rutland resident served as president of The Green Society, a student club that focuses on sustainable issues and worked with faculty and staff to establish several important initiatives. These include a single-stream recycling program, community garden project, a farmers' market and an innovative composting program in the cafeteria that has diverted more than 1,000 pounds of food from the trash stream.

Dettloff has since transferred to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in plant soil and insect sciences, with a concentration in sustainable food and farming.

"I want to help people learn the impact they have on this world—on everything and everyone around them, even people 1,000 miles away."

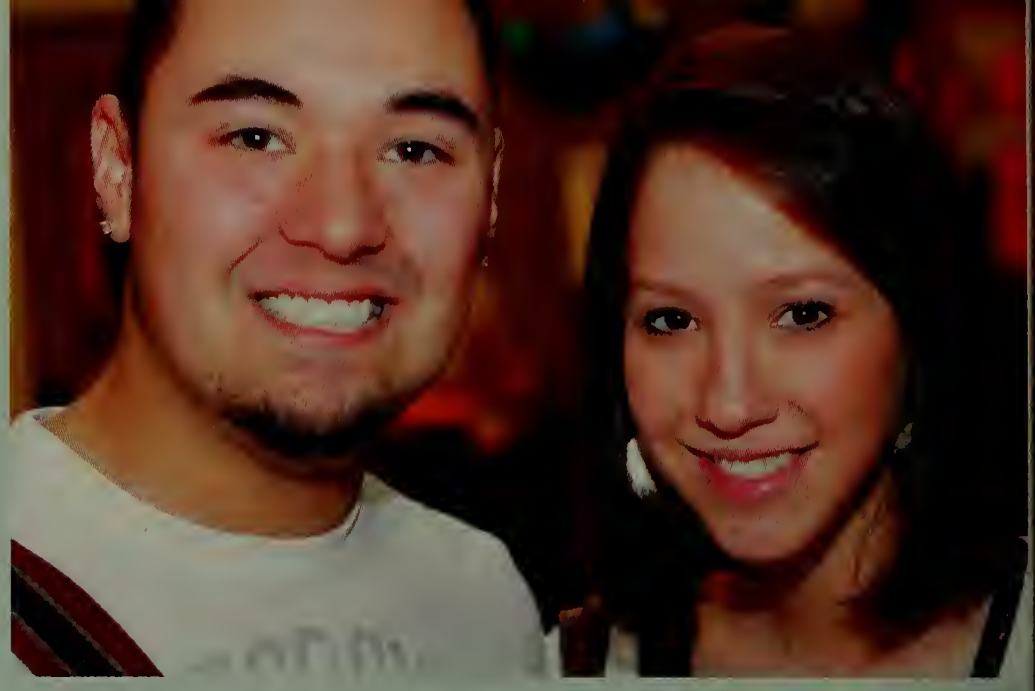
At UMass, she is a member of the Commonwealth Honors College. She is pondering whether to enroll directly in a master's degree program after graduating with her B.S. in 2011, or joining the Peace Corps to teach sustainable gardening to citizens in a developing country.

– Janice O'Connor

Feature

Dual Enrollment

High school students trim a year off their education



College credit! Exciting courses. Career exposure. These are just some of the benefits of enrolling in Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) courses and programs—even as a junior or senior in high school. MWCC will give you all the support you need along the way: academic and career counseling, tutoring, workshops, and activities.

How does Dual Enrollment work?

Whether in high school or home school programs, juniors and seniors can enroll in MWCC classes prior to high school graduation. Take courses that will transfer to most public and private colleges and universities while completing your high school graduation requirements. High school students, age 16 or older, who meet the necessary college-level placement requirements and course prerequisites, may enroll in MWCC courses held at any of the campuses or in some cases at their high schools. Participants are considered MWCC students and enjoy all the same benefits. They are encouraged to participate fully in college activities and programs, including the Honors Program, academic support services, and other co-curricular activities. They can enroll at MWCC on either a part or full-time basis.

How are students selected?

High school students are selected for Dual Enrollment at MWCC according to the policies and practices established by each high school district and the college. The college administers a placement test to each student and the results play a role in the acceptance procedure.

Dual Enrollment, Dual Credit... what is the difference?

- In Dual Enrollment, a student is enrolled in a course at MWCC and receives college credit for it while still in high school.
- Dual Credit means the student may receive both high school and college credit for the course taken through MWCC.

What are the opportunities for home schooled students?

Home schooled students can take college courses, begin a college transcript, and explore the college admissions process by enrolling in MWCC's Dual Enrollment Program.

Admissions and Registration procedure

1. Student meets with his/her high school guidance counselor to obtain permission to apply to the program. An application is available online.
2. The application has a portion for the student to fill out and a portion for the guidance counselor to fill out. The student needs a 2.5 QPA to participate part-time in the Dual Enrollment Program and a 2.8 to participate full-time.
3. The application and high school transcript are submitted to the MWCC Enrollment Center.
4. Students must take MWCC's College Placement Exams (CPT) in English, Reading and Mathematics.
5. The Enrollment Center evaluates the application, transcript, and placement exams and makes a decision regarding acceptance.
6. After the student has been accepted, he/she meets with one of the advisors for the Dual Enrollment Program to register for classes.
7. Student or his/her parent/guardian pay the tuition. A payment plan is available.
8. Student purchases required textbooks.
9. Student attends orientation and has an opportunity to meet with other Dual Enrollment students.

Elizabeth Burke

Like many 18-year-olds, Fitchburg resident Elizabeth Burke headed off to a residential, private college this fall to earn a bachelor's degree. But unlike her teenage peers, Burke already holds a college degree, having earned an associate degree in Broadcasting and Electronic Media while attending MWCC as a dual-enrolled high school and college student.

Student Earns College Degree at 18; Transfers for Bachelor's

Burke, who entered Emerson College in Boston as a junior to pursue a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism, came to MWCC at age 16. "I wasn't even driving yet and I was in college. I absolutely loved it," she recalls. After taking a course in broadcast journalism, she discovered her calling and dove into the associate degree program full-time. "I realized I could finish up my degree in two years, have a bachelor's degree at 20 and be ready to start a career," the exuberant student explains.

Burke says the fact that she was able to pare tens of thousands of dollars off the cost of a four-year degree, while still earning her BA from a top, private institution, was an added bonus. "When you start out at a community college, you are saving a ton of money," she says.

"I had some of the best experiences and met some of my best friends at 'The Mount.' The professors really care about you. They made me want to succeed. Two years ago, I never would have predicted I would be where I am today. It was a fantastic experience."

– Janice O'Connor

Facts AND Finds

Hot Tip!

Don't Take Courses You Don't Need!

Massachusetts public colleges and universities, including MWCC and several private colleges, require incoming students to take the Accuplacer Test upon entrance to determine their level of skill and competency in math, reading, and English. This test ensures that students are placed in courses that are at a level that meets their academic abilities.

A great way to maximize your score, and avoid wasting time and money taking unneeded remedial courses is to brush up before the test.

Check out:

www.testprepreview.com

www.accuplacertestquestions.com

Financial Aid Myths

Literally billions of dollars in financial aid are available to those who need help paying for college. Yet lots of misinformation clouds the facts about what type of aid is available and who is eligible. This edition, and future CareerFocus editions, will focus on dispelling some of the myths.

Myth #1: My Parents Saved for College, So We Won't Qualify for Aid

Saving for college is always a good idea. Tucking away money could mean you have fewer loans to repay, and it won't mean you're not eligible for aid if you need it. A family's share of college costs is calculated based mostly on income, not assets such as savings.

Myth #2: I'm not a Straight "A" Student, So I Won't Get Aid

It's true that many scholarships reward merit, but the vast majority of federal aid is based on financial need and does not even consider grades.

Myth #3: My Folks Will Have to Sell Their House to Pay for College

Home value is not considered in calculations for federal financial aid. Colleges may take home equity into account when determining how much you are expected to contribute to college costs, but income is a far greater factor in this determination. No college will expect your parents to sell their house to pay for your education.

Graduates Weigh in on Their MWCC Experience

According to a survey of 2008 MWCC graduates:

- 90% said that if they could start over, they would choose MWCC again.
- 89% said that they either met or partly-met their goals by attending MWCC.
- 81% are either employed, continuing their education, or both.
- 54% are employed full-time, and 35% are continuing their education. Of those continuing their education, 64% are attending school on a full-time basis.
- When asked to rank the quality of an MWCC education, 98.8% of those responding indicated "excellent," "very good," or "good."

Feed Your Creativity

When it's time to do some creative thinking, what's the best way to come up with a great new idea? Should you brainstorm? Should you get out and experience new things? Or should you find time to be by yourself and let your mind wander?

The answer is yes to all. Studies show that creativity thrives on a mix of stimulating new ideas and experiences combined with quiet contemplation.

Seek variety

Large urban areas can really make creativity blossom according to a 2007 *Psychology Today* article that explains why today's computer-connected "flatworld" economy still needs the face-to-face energy of a vibrant office, bustling neighborhood or culturally-diverse big city.

"The potential edge that urban dwellers enjoy over their country cousins can be linked to having more and different people to meet, and more meeting places—parks, coffee shops, parties or simply the sidewalk," it concludes.

Getting your ideas flowing is important for creativity too. "Studies of the most creative people in history—such as Einstein and Edison—have shown that geniuses develop their most innovative ideas when they're generating the greatest number of ideas, reports a 2003 *Inc.* magazine article on creativity in the workplace. "So set your goals high: If you need a single good solution, look for 100 ideas."

Trust yourself

But let's dispel one big misconception. The group brainstorm, long a staple of classrooms and conference rooms, isn't a good way of generating quality ideas.

Many studies have shown that "...people working alone generally hit upon better ideas than do the same people working together," reports a 2005 *In Character* magazine article on creativity.

So, keep your environment varied and keep the ideas coming, but when it's time to think it all through, the best approach is to retreat and sift through your ideas. The most creative attitude is, "...a sort of neutral state in which we're receptive to issues or themes that bother us but are unresolved," reports *Inc.* magazine. That's why activities like showering, driving or walking often produce some of our best ideas.

Feature

Financial Aid

Helping you get the money you need for the education you deserve

At Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), we believe that going to college should be a destination that everyone can reach. We also know that not everyone has the money to get there.

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is money provided by federal, state and institutional sources to help students meet expenses while attending college. Many students find it increasingly difficult to finance a college education without some assistance. In general, all U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens who are enrolled in an approved degree or certificate program are eligible to receive financial assistance.

If I receive financial aid now, do I need to pay the money back later?

Most financial aid is money that doesn't have to be repaid. Grants and scholarships make up a large portion of financial aid received by students. **If you apply early, chances are, a significant amount of your financial need can be met with aid that doesn't have to be repaid.**

The entire process seems overwhelming. How can I get financial assistance if I'm not even sure how to apply?

Applying for financial aid can be confusing. At MWCC, our financial aid office can help you fill out applications and answer any questions you have about the process.

I'm not sure I qualify for financial aid. Should I complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

Yes, the best way to determine what funds you qualify for is by completing an application. It doesn't cost anything to apply. Financial aid removes financial barriers for families who cannot afford the cost of an education, and also provides needed funds for families who can afford only a portion of college costs. Your financial eligibility will be determined by a number of factors including family income, the size of your family and number of family members attending college.

You can complete a FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

MWCC FAFSA Assistance Filing Workshops

Saturday, April 17, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Room 240 & Room 248, Gardner Campus

Tuesday, April 27, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Room 240 & Room 248, Gardner Campus

These workshops are open to students and their parents who need assistance with filing the 2010-2011 FAFSA forms.

You do NOT have to register for the workshop, just drop in.

Students and parents are encouraged to bring the following:
- 2009 W2s
- 2009 Federal tax forms
- Value of assets
- Federal FAFSA PIN (if a prior year filer)

The Mass Grant deadline for filing the FAFSA is May 1, 2010.

For more information, contact the financial aid office (978) 630-9169.

Using a PIN to Apply and to Sign Your Application

Obtain a PIN, an electronic access code number that serves as an identifier at www.pin.ed.gov.

What is a PIN and what is it used for?

It is an electronic access code number that serves as your identifier and electronic signature.

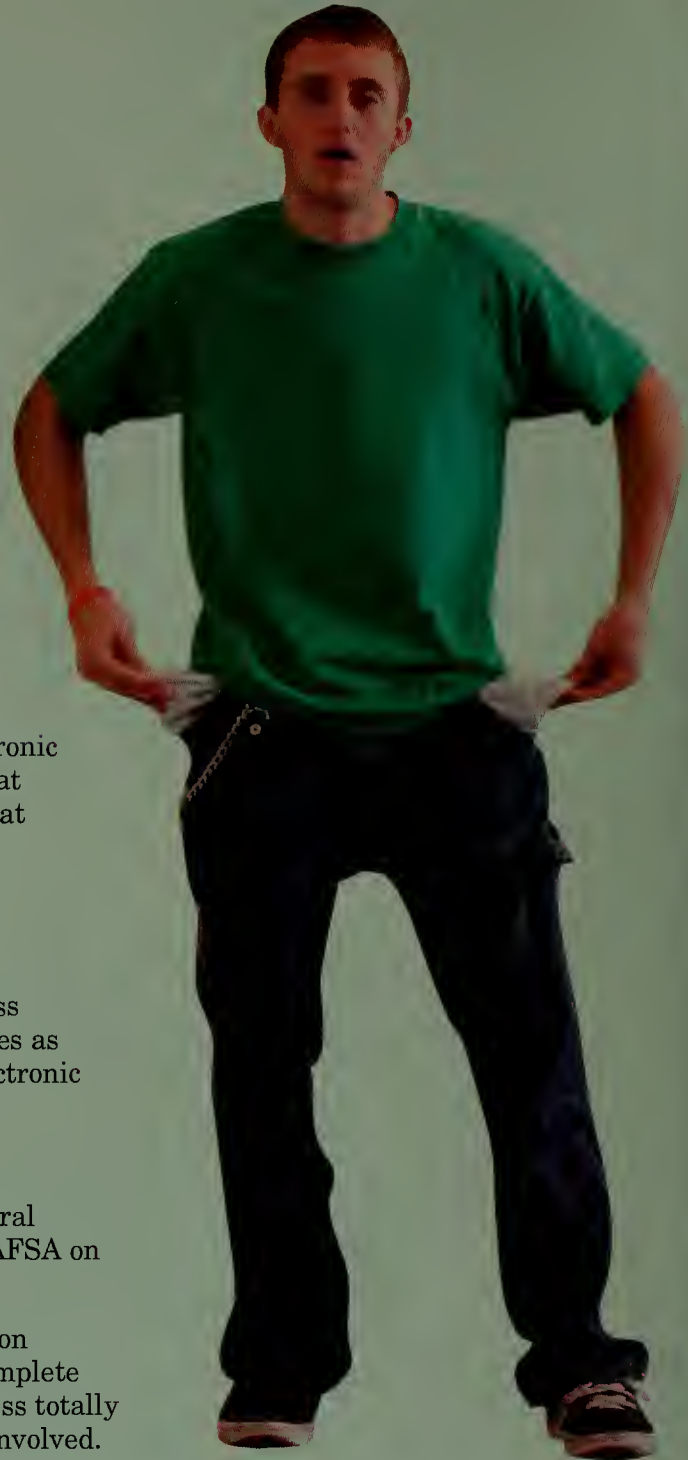
Your PIN helps you to:

- Apply online for federal student aid, using FAFSA on the web.
- "Sign" your application electronically and complete the student aid process totally online—no paper is involved. If you're a dependent student and your parents have a PIN, they can sign the application electronically, as well. Signing the application at the time you apply means you'll get your results faster.
- Make corrections to your FAFSA.
- Access your Student Aid Report and make corrections to it.
- Access all your federal student aid records online, including any federal loan information.

If you have any questions about the PIN process, you should either visit the PIN website at www.pin.ed.gov or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). This is also the number to call to check on the status of your financial aid application. Please allow two to four weeks for processing.

When To Apply

Now is the time to apply. You may file a FAFSA from January 1 all the way through the next 18 months. The application period



ends in June at the end of the academic year.

When is the best time to file? Apply now. It is best to file as soon after January 1 as you can.

- If you want to be considered for the Mass Grant Program, you must file your FAFSA by May 1.

Missing Information Letter

A missing information letter will be sent to students once the MWCC financial aid office receives your results. It will indicate the forms you will need to submit to complete your file.

Award Letter

Award information is made available to students 24/7 using the online self service system called WebConnect. An email is sent to you once your file has been reviewed and packaged. If you do not qualify for financial assistance, you may still be entitled to receive a fee waiver.

MWCC: A Welcoming Place for Speakers of Other Languages

By Nichole Carter

Jose Mangual's office is a bustling place. Students are constantly in and out with questions, concerns, or just a quick hello. A stream of friendly greetings: "hola," "alo," and "bonjour" can be heard as students pass by. Mangual, an English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) advisor at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) explains that he; Dr. Madhu Sharma, ESL coordinator; and program faculty do their best to create a warm, welcoming community for the over 100 students typically enrolled in MWCC's ESL program each semester. Their efforts show. The students look happy to be there. They seem connected to the college, staff, and to one another.

Jose Mangual, English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) advisor and Dr. Madhu Sharma, ESL Coordinator.

English-as-a-Second Language courses are offered both during the day and evening at MWCC's Leominster Campus at 100 Erdman Way, conveniently located off of Route 2, and accessible by public transportation.

What is MWCC's English-as-a-Second Language program?

MWCC's ESL program includes courses in multiple levels of English conversation, grammar, reading and writing. Students begin by applying and taking a placement exam to be placed in courses at the appropriate level.

"Some students enroll in MWCC's ESL program because they want to communicate better at work; some want to be able to pursue a degree; others had a career before living in the U.S. and need English skills to re-enter that field," explains Sharma. "Several international students also enroll to learn the language before moving back to their home country." Students come from all around the world: Brazil, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Korea, Laos, Mexico, Thailand, Uruguay, and many more.

Sharma and Mangual are proud of the accomplishments of ESL students. "One ESL student entered the program with minimal English skills and then continued her education in one of MWCC's certificate programs. She also took courses at UMass and became an interpreter at a local hospital," explains Sharma.

"We had a student from Venezuela who was a computer engineering student. As a result of developing his English skills, he found a job in computer networking," explains Mangual. "We have another student who took MWCC's ESL courses and is now continuing her education in MWCC's Human Services Degree program."

Perks of the program

The ESL program now includes traditional college courses online in Spanish. Courses have been offered in psychology, sociology, human services, and computer technologies.

The program also includes access to an ESL computer lab, staffed with a lab assistant. Rosetta Stone, a software that helps students to build their English skills, is also available.

A sense of community

ESL staff aim to create a sense of community among students. "Students receive guidance from their first step into the college through their enrollment in classes," Mangual says. "We aim to be a resource and offer help along the way with everything from advising, to explaining college processes, to referring them to community resources. The key to our program's success is showing them we care." Mangual speaks English, Spanish, and Portuguese and he continually aims to identify with all of the cultures represented in the program. Sharma speaks English, Spanish, Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi. She also understands Portuguese and Italian. "We listen to students and we speak to them in English at whatever learning level they are at," Mangual explains.

Events, celebrations, and activities are held throughout the year where ESL students can gather together. The program also includes a language café that meets every Wednesday which allows ESL students to practice their English skills with native English speakers. A support group for women meets every Monday to allow women in the program to discuss issues that affect them on a day-to-day basis.

Enrolling

For more information about MWCC's ESL courses, call Jose Mangual at (978) 840-3221, ext. 215, email jmangual@mwcc.mass.edu, or go to http://www.mwcc.edu/programs/ESL/default.html. You can also join the ESL Facebook group: MWCC ESL.

ESL Program Helps Student Pursue Degree

Vicente Estrella

Vicente Estrella moved to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic with his family two years ago. At the time, his English-speaking skills were minimal. After a year-and-a-half in MWCC's ESL program, Estrella is now enrolled in traditional college courses at MWCC. Estrella's goal is to eventually earn a degree in nursing.

"The ESL program is helping me toward my goal of earning a college degree," he says. "Also, my progress gaining English skills through the ESL program demonstrated to my employer that I am a quick learner, which resulted in a promotion at work."

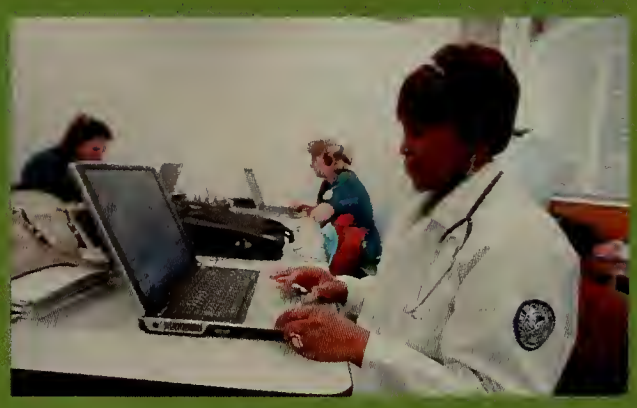
Career Programs at MWCC

MWCC has several degree and certificate programs that prepare you to enter a career immediately upon graduation. Many of the credits in the career programs may be transferred to a baccalaureate institution (depending on the institution).

Some MWCC degrees have both career and transfer options. You will see them listed on both pages.

- Accounting Certificate
- Accounting Option Degree*
- Allied Health Certificate
- Automotive Technology Certificate and Degree
- Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Certificate and Degree
- Broadcasting & Electronic Media Degree
- Business Administration Certificate
- Business Administration—Career Degree
- Clinical Laboratory Science Degree
- Complementary Health Care Certificate
- Complementary Health Care—Massage Therapy Degree
- Complementary Health Care—Yoga Teacher Training Degree
- Computer Graphic Design—Print Certificate and Degree
- Computer Graphic Design—Web Design Certificate and Degree
- Computer Information Systems Degree
- Criminal Justice—Corrections Degree
- Criminal Justice—Law Enforcement Degree
- Dental Hygiene Degree
- Early Childhood Education—Career Degree
- Emergency Medical Technician Certificate of Completion
- Energy Management Certificate and Degree
- Human Service Technician Certificate
- Human Services Degree
- IT Support Specialist Certificate
- Law Enforcement Certificate
- Massage Therapy Certificate
- Medical Assisting Degree
- Manufacturing Technology—Plastics Degree
- Medical Coding & Billing Certificate
- Medical Office Certificate
- Natural Resources Degree
- Nursing Degree
- Office Assistant Certificate
- Paralegal Certificate and Degree
- Phlebotomy Certificate of Completion
- Physical Therapist Assistant Degree
- Practical Nursing Certificate
- Photography Certificate
- Small Business Management Certificate

**Denotes a concentration of a degree*



Transfer Programs at MWCC

If your goal is a bachelor's degree, MWCC's transfer programs will get you halfway there (or more)—and at about half the cost of many colleges. MWCC has several programs that make transfer easy:

- Through programs like MassTransfer, you will realize cost savings when you transfer to a Massachusetts public college after graduating from MWCC.
- Through the 3 Plus ONE program, you can transfer as many as 90 MWCC credits to one of MWCC's partner colleges. That's about three years of a four-year degree, and big savings.
- Transfer scholarships are also available to many private and public colleges and universities for transfer students.

Some degrees have both career and transfer options. You will see them listed on both pages.

MassTransfer Programs:

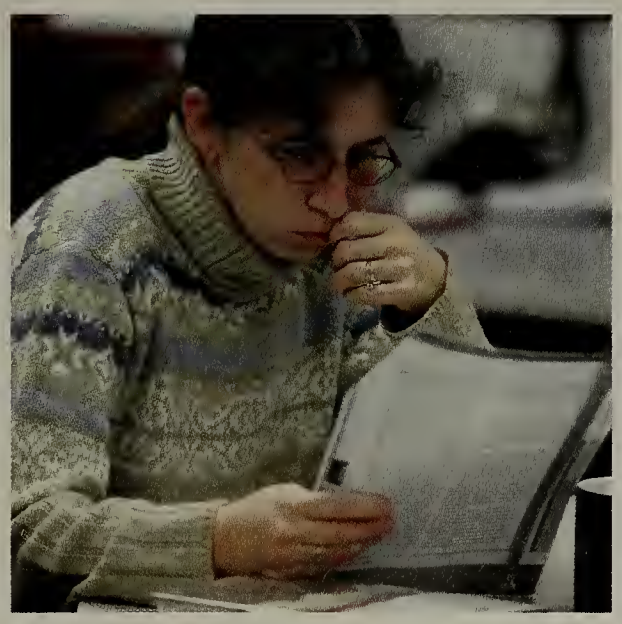
- Art—Traditional Program
- Business Administration—Transfer Degree
- Communications Concentration*
- Elementary Education Concentration Degree *
- Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Concentration Degree *
- History & Political Science Concentration Degree *
- Liberal Arts Degree
- Liberal Studies Degree
- Pre-Engineering Track Degree*
- Theatre Arts Concentration Degree*

**Denotes a concentration of Liberal Studies*

Programs with transfer agreements to New England baccalaureate institutions:

- All of the MassTransfer programs
- Art—Professional Track
- Broadcasting & Electronic Media Degree
- Business Administration—Career Degree
- Criminal Justice—Corrections Degree
- Criminal Justice—Law Enforcement Degree
- Early Childhood Education—Transfer Degree
- General Studies Degree
- Human Services Degree
- Nursing Degree
- Paralegal Studies Degree
- Radiologic Technologist Articulation Agreement

Please check with the Advising & Counseling Center for more information, (978) 630-9568.



Associate degree or certificate? Which is right for you?

Associate degree

Can be completed in as little time as two years full-time, or part-time at whatever pace is best for you. It is challenging to complete most degree programs in two years, and a majority of students take longer, especially if they have work or family responsibilities. Associate degrees often require the completion of 20 or more courses. Degrees prepare you for a career or transfer to a four-year college or university.

Certificate

Can be completed in as little time as one year full-time, or part-time at whatever pace is best for you. It often requires the completion of eight or more courses. Certificates are a great way to attain quick training to launch a new career, strengthen current skills, or pursue an interest.

For High School Students and Recent Grads!

Earn Your Business Administration Degree in One Year

Introducing the Accelerated Business Administration Transfer Degree:

- Classes meet conveniently year-round on Fridays during the day, online, and Wednesday evenings
- Cost savings of more than $5,000
- Numerous transfer opportunities with public and private four-year institutions
- Additional cost savings potential through the 3 Plus ONE program, which allows students to also complete their junior year at MWCC, at MWCC's tuition, and their senior year at the partner institution. In the case of the ABAT program, this becomes a 2 plus ONE program.
- Cohort study groups and tutoring will be available
- Real world experience through service learning and internships
- Career counseling
- Induction into Alpha Beta Gamma Honors Society with a 3.0 QPA after first semester

Information Sessions

Tuesday, April 20, 2:30 p.m., room 125

Tuesday, May 11, 6:00 p.m., room 125

Tuesday, June 8, 2:30 p.m., room 125

To register, please call (978) 630-9594 or email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu.

For more information, contact Carol Cullins, assistant director of admissions, at (978) 630-9594, email ccullins@mwcc.mass.edu.

Shorten Your Path to a College Degree or Certificate with CLEP

The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) can make it easier for students of all ages to complete their degrees more quickly.

Place out of a graduation requirement or an introductory course:
- Get credit for what you already know
- Shorten the time to a degree
- Save tuition dollars (a CLEP exam costs less than $100)

CLEP exams are offered at least twice a month at MWCC. To see which tests are available, or for more information, go to http://www.mwcc.edu/services/testing/CLEP.html; call testing services at (978) 630-9244; or stop by room 128C (to the right of the library at MWCC's Gardner Campus).

Pre-nursing Academy

As experienced nurses leave the field, additional job openings will be available. MWCC's Pre-nursing Academy invites 2009 & 2010 high school graduates to apply for this program, which provides opportunity for students ages 16-21 to gain access into MWCC's competitive Nursing Associate's Degree program. Pre-nursing Academy students who maintain a 3.3 QPA through the Pre-nursing program will enter MWCC's Nursing Associate Degree program during the fall of their second year.

Benefits

- Access to MWCC's highly-competitive Nursing Degree program, a renowned program close to home
- Become part of a cohort of Pre-nursing Academy students
- Opportunity to become a nurse in three years with options to transfer into a nursing bachelor's degree program
- Specialized learning communities for pre-requisite coursework
- Leadership opportunities
- Nursing Club membership

For more information, contact John Walsh, director of admissions, at (978) 630-9194, email jwalsh@mwcc.mass.edu.

College Access & Preparation Programs

Through the Division of Access and Transition, MWCC administers several college access and preparation programs which provide middle and high school students, as well as adults, with an array of academic, college, and career awareness services. Services are generally provided through targeted grant initiatives. For more information on any program call (978) 630-9248, or check out our website at http://capp.mwcc.edu

Programs include:

CAPP
College Access and Preparation Programs
The Division of Access and Transition

- Adult Basic Education Transition to Community College
- Dual Enrollment & the Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Program
- Educational Talent Search
- Gateway to College
- GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)
- Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment
- MCAS Academic Pathways to Success
- MCAS Works!
- One Stop Career Pathways for Youth
- Summer Programs
- Upward Bound Math and Science
- Secondary Postsecondary Career/Vocational Technical Education Linkage Initiative
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

A TO B ASSOCIATE'S TO BACHELOR'S PROGRAM

Earn a Nichols College bachelor's degree without leaving campus

A to B... and Beyond

Once you've earned your bachelor's degree, you can continue your Nichols education and earn your MBA.

www.nichols.edu/eveningonline

Now you can earn your bachelor's degree from Nichols College right here, thanks to the **A to B Business Program Partnership** with Mount Wachusett Community College.

You'll take your third year classes on the MWCC campus with MWCC instructors. Your fourth year is with Nichols College—the classes can be taken on the MWCC campus or online. Please note, you must be accepted before the end of your second year. **It's affordable, convenient and smart.**

Start working toward your bachelor's today. To find out more, contact Nichols at 800-243-3844 or AtoB@nichols.edu.

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Your Success Is Our Business

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Mount Wachusett Community College

3 plus ONE

upcoming • INFORMATION SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

Your Future Starts Now!

Devens Campus Techno-EXPO

Wed., April 14, 5-7 p.m. • Deven Campus

Learn about emerging technology programs, the health sciences, and other exciting educational opportunities at MWCC by attending this expo at MWCC's science and technology campus in Devens. Admissions, financial aid, and veterans representatives will be available.

For directions, go to www.mwcc.edu/info/locations.html. For more information, call the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.edu; or call the Devens Campus (978) 630-9569.

FAFSA Assistance

The financial aid office is offering FAFSA filing workshops. *See page 12 for more information.*

Sat., April 17 • 4 - 6 p.m. • room 240 & room 248, Gardner Campus
Tues., April 27 • 4 -6 p.m. • room 240 & room 248, Gardner Campus

These workshops are open to students and parents who need assistance filing the 2010-2011 FAFSA forms. You do NOT have to register for these workshops, just drop in.
Bring the following:

- 2009 W2s
- 2009 Federal tax forms
- Value of assets
- Federal FAFSA PIN (if a prior year filer)

The Mass Grant deadline for filing the FAFSA is May 1, 2010.

Admitted Student Reception *(for new students)*

Tues., Apr. 27, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Morning snacks /Campus tours
- Meet faculty and current students
- Learn about academic advising/registration, financial aid, and how to make the most of the college experience!
- Relax in the North Cafe with the fun, acoustic pop sound of Jason Levasseur

For more information, contact the Enrollment Center (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS summer?

Save time and money by completing a summer course at Mount Wachusett Community College.

- Complete a three or four credit course in five or ten weeks
- Get a jumpstart on your education
- Cut the time it takes to earn your degree or certificate
- Transfer students can save time and money by taking MWCC summer courses and transferring them to their home institution

Summer Sessions:

- Two week May Intersession courses: May 17 – 28
- Summer 1: June 1 – July 2
- Summer 2: July 6 – Aug. 13
- Full Summer: June 1 – Aug. 13

Some Courses Offered:

ART113 Introduction to Studio
CIS127 Computer Technologies
ENG101 English Composition I
ENG102 English Composition II
ECO101 Macroeconomics
ECO102 Microeconomics
PSY105 Intro to Psychology
SOC103 Intro to Sociology
BIO109 Biology I
CHE107 General Chemistry I
HIS201 History of the United States
HUM260 The Art of Being Human
MAT143 Statistics
SPA109 Beginning Spanish I
THE113 Speech
and more!

ATTENTION college students home for the summer:

Save time and money by taking a summer course at MWCC and transferring it back to your home institution. It's easily done, usually through your college's registrar's office. Check there first to ensure the course meets their requirements. Once you complete your MWCC course, request a transcript from the MWCC Enrollment Center to transfer the credit back to your home institution.

Check out MWCC classes this summer, on-campus and online! **Go to www.mwcc.edu/summer**

Mount Wachusett *Community College*

Enrollment Center **(978) 630-9284**
Email: **admissions@mwcc.mass.edu**

AA/EEO Institution